

Park and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

March 17, 2009

5:30 pm

Pendora Park Fieldhouse

Meeting Summary

Committee Members Present – M. Zuber, R. Epler, R. DeGroote, E. Schlegel, O. Smith, Chair – 5.

Others Present – S. Katzenmoyer, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes

Motion was made by Ernie Schlegel, seconded by Mike Zuber, to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Report from Recreation Director

Mr. Zuber reported:

- Membership at the Pendora Recreation Center is 117. Louisa Huber, the Center director, has received many compliments.
- Attendance at rec centers is higher than the past ten years.
- Donations from the Food Bank for the Kids' Café are not keeping up with demand. Extra food is purchased so no child goes home hungry.
- Playground leaders are currently being interviewed. Pool lifeguards have been hired.
- Staff is anticipating increased demand at Schlegel this summer because of the closing of Hillside pool.
- Renovations at Baer Park will be complete in April.
- Essig and 3rd & Spring playground renovation projects will be put out for bid shortly.
- Funding for renovations at Northmont playground has been secured. This is the last of the 21 playground renovations.
- Walmart will be donating flowers for an Earth Day activity at the rec centers. There will also be 15 – 20 managers available to assist.
- A study was done on all the City's fines and fees. This study has shown that many fees in the recreation department should be adjusted. Mr. Zuber voiced concern that this increase in fees would decrease usage. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the fees will be examined individually. Not all fees will increase to the extent suggested by the study. Mr. Zuber suggested that Matt Lubas be contacted regarding the fee adjustments.

Mr. Schlegel requested the current fees. Ms. Katzenmoyer will supply them. He suggested our fees be compared to other local municipality's fees. He stated his belief that the City's fees could be skewed.

Mr. DeGroote stated that the PA Recreation Park Society should have this data available.

Mr. Schlegel stated that he was willing to make contacts to procure others' fees. He also stated his belief that more adult programs are needed and that fees be charged for adult programs to offset the costs to children's programs. He suggested that a future renovation enclose a park so that a fee can be charged for entrance. He also noted his support of a nominal fee for parking.

Mr. Smith noted that fees need to be adjusted cautiously. He stated the belief of some that as City residents the uses of parks and playgrounds should be free. He suggested a tiered fee system where non-City residents paid higher fees. Mr. Zuber stated that a tiered fee system is already in place in many instances.

Mr. DeGroote noted the need for the ability of the City to show that recreation fees are being used to improve recreation programs and facilities.

Old Business

- **10 Year Plan**

Mr. Smith questioned the timeframe for completing the plan. Ms. Katzenmoyer noted that it must be completed and adopted by Council by May 2012.

Mr. Zuber stated that if the plan is built from scratch that it is very time consuming and would take six months to one year. The cost of the current plan was approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Schlegel questioned if City recreation would qualify for any federal stimulus money. Mr. DeGroote stated that this would need to be researched. He suggested that perhaps the money could be used to upgrade ball fields and install lighting to allow more evening games. Mr. Zuber suggested EJ Dives, Brookline, and 10th & South receive lighting and Pendora's fields be upgraded.

Mr. Schlegel questioned if the City would have the ability to use the fields at Angelica if no events were planned by Alvernia. Mr. Smith noted his belief that this would not be possible since Alvernia invested in making the fields NCAA standard. Mr. Zuber suggested that Mr. Lubas be contacted regarding this issue.

Mr. Schlegel noted that the current 10 year plan states that a daycare should be located in each rec center and fieldhouse. He stated that this would build repore between residents

and playgrounds and will help build the recreation program. Mr. Zuber described the Day Camp offered at 3rd & Spruce during the summer.

Mr. DeGroote noted the strict standards of daycares. He noted the need for caution in this issue. Mr. Schlegel noted that a good, quality product would be good public relations for the City. Mr. Zuber noted the City's past programs of Mommy & Me during evenings and weekends. He stated that staff is not available to run additional programs.

Ms. Katzenmoyer described the work of the Zoning Amendment Committee to address neighborhood daycare centers.

- **Sports Programs**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the hockey rink at 3rd and Spruce should be better utilized. Mr. Zuber stated that the rink is fully booked on weekends. However, there are lights and programs could be run weekday evenings.

Mr. DeGroote noted the increased interest in both boys and girls volleyball. He noted that this would be a good opportunity to begin youth volleyball programs. The programs could be indoor and outdoor if outdoor courts have safety surface.

New Business

- None

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

The next meeting of the PARC will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 5:30 pm at Olivet Oakbrook – 1161 Pershing Blvd.

Respectfully submitted

*Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk*

Issues for follow up:

- Lantern Parade
- Volleyball
- Skateboard Park
- Dog Park
- Jogging trails
- Checkerboard tables
- Adult exercise/yoga
- Hockey – roller/deck